

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Polish Garrison at Gizycko

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REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The Polish garrison at Gizycko (Loetzen-R55/A59) is composed of the following units:

- a. Infantry regiment
- b. Artillery regiment
- c. Tank regiment
- d. Communications troops
- e. Engineer troops
- f. Other military services

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2. The Gizycko garrison, which was activated in the spring of 1951, has steadily increased in size until it has become one of the largest garrisons in the province of Olsztyn (Allenstein)¹. It is billeted in the very large and comfortable former German barracks which are located in the outskirts of Gizycko. These barracks were not razed by the Russians in 1946 when they burned the town of Gizycko.

3. The communications and engineer troops are billeted in the former German barracks located on Ulica Sikorskiego. The engineer regiment, which is commanded by a Soviet colonel, and the First Battalion of this regiment Last summer the First Battalion constructed a pontoon bridge on the road between Rydzewo and Ruda (Ruden). During the German occupation, a solid road bridge had connected the two aforementioned towns. Other battalions of the engineer regiment are stationed a short distance from Gizycko around the lakes located in the area. These latter engineer battalions are reconstructing the road bridges which were destroyed many times by the Soviets.

4. All of the officers in the battalions are Poles who received their commissions during and after the war. However, all generals, colonels and a number of lieutenant colonels who have been specially assigned as commanders of Polish units are Russians, although they are classified as Polish officers.

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These officers speak only Russian among themselves and even force the few Polish officers who have attained equal rank with them to speak in Russian. During 1953, as a test, all commands given to Polish units will be issued in the Russian language.

5. During the maneuvers last summer, there was a very large concentration of different types of troops at Orzysz (Arys -R54/A66). Orzysz is probably the largest military camp in Poland.² A former German military camp is located at Orzysz and this camp is able to billet three divisions during the months from June to August when a large number of troops are quartered at Orzysz.
6. The entire lake around Gizycko is occupied by Soviet and Polish troops who together make up about three or four divisions. In the area between Gizycko and Orzysz along the road and railroad line, there are only military units in the villages and no civilians. The military units possess various types of weapons.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comments:

- 25X1A 1. [REDACTED] located the 55th Infantry Regiment and other reports located the 18th Artillery Regiment, 54th Artillery Regiment and 77th Engineer Battalion here. Gizycko is also believed to be the headquarters of an unidentified division.

- 25X1A 2. [REDACTED] describes this military camp and locates it in the area between Orzysz, Pisz (Johannisburg), Biala (Gellen), Piska Drygally (Drygallen) and Klusy; [REDACTED]

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